DC
BATMAN
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
PERIL IS THE PENGUIN!
THE NEW
DC
THERE'S NO STOPPING US NOW.
NEWTON & GIORDANO

AT THE TIME OF THE RIDDLER'S LAST CRIME SPREE, THERE WASN'T A SINGLE JEWELRY SHOP IN GOTHAM BEARING THE NAME "GOLDEN GOOSE."

SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, SEVEN NEW GEM EMPORIUMS HAVE FILLED ALARM-WIRED WINDOWS WITH FRESH DAZZLE...

... AND ONE OF THEM -- THE ONE OVER ON DELANEY STREET -- IS CALLED YOU-KNOW-WHAT.

Golden Goose fine Jewelry

Jewelry

:HIC:

WHUTHU...?

PUSH

KEEP GOTHAM CLEAN

GOOFY :HIC: BIRD...?

LUCKILY, THE RIDDLER IS STILL IN PRISON.

1919

UNLUCKILY...

ZZZT-

CHATCH

BAOOMM

...A PENGUIN EXPLODES.

DRITTJING

AND WHILE THE ALARM CIRCUITRY OF THE SHATTERED WINDOW PERFORMS ITS FUNCTION BOTH LOUDLY AND ADMIRABLY--

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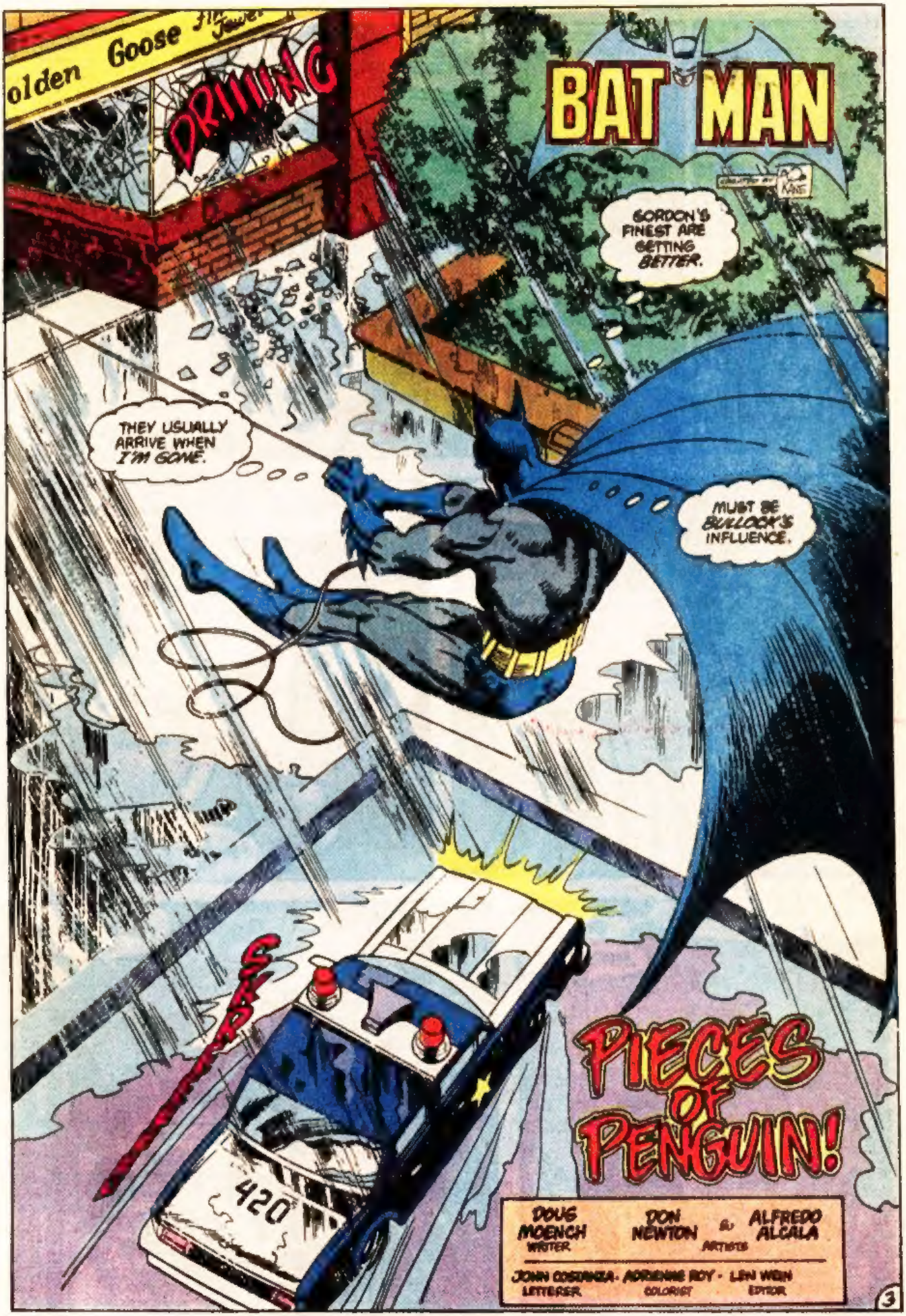
-- THE DAZZLE IS NONETHELESS ACCESSIBLE.
DRIIING
CHOICE ITEMS ONLY, IF YOU PLEASE...
...AND JUST ENOUGH OF THEM TO ESTABLISH ME IN A NEW ROOST...
...FROM WHICH TO HATCH SOME REAL CRIMES.
PLIP
POP!
;HIC?:
PLAP
GOOD EVENING, MY FELLOW NIGHT-BIRD...
...BUT NOT THAT GOOD.
;HIC:
INDEED, WERE I YOU--
-- I'D GET IN FROM THE RAIN.
GOOFY ;HIC: BIRD!
2


BAT MAN
olden Goose
DRIIIING
GORDON'S FINEST ARE GETTING BETTER.
THEY USUALLY ARRIVE WHEN I'M GONE.
MUST BE BULLOCK'S INFLUENCE.
420
PIECES OF PENGUIN!
DOUG MOENCH WRITER
DON NEWTON & ALFREDO ALCALA ARTISTS
JOHN COSENZA LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST
LEN WEIN EDITOR
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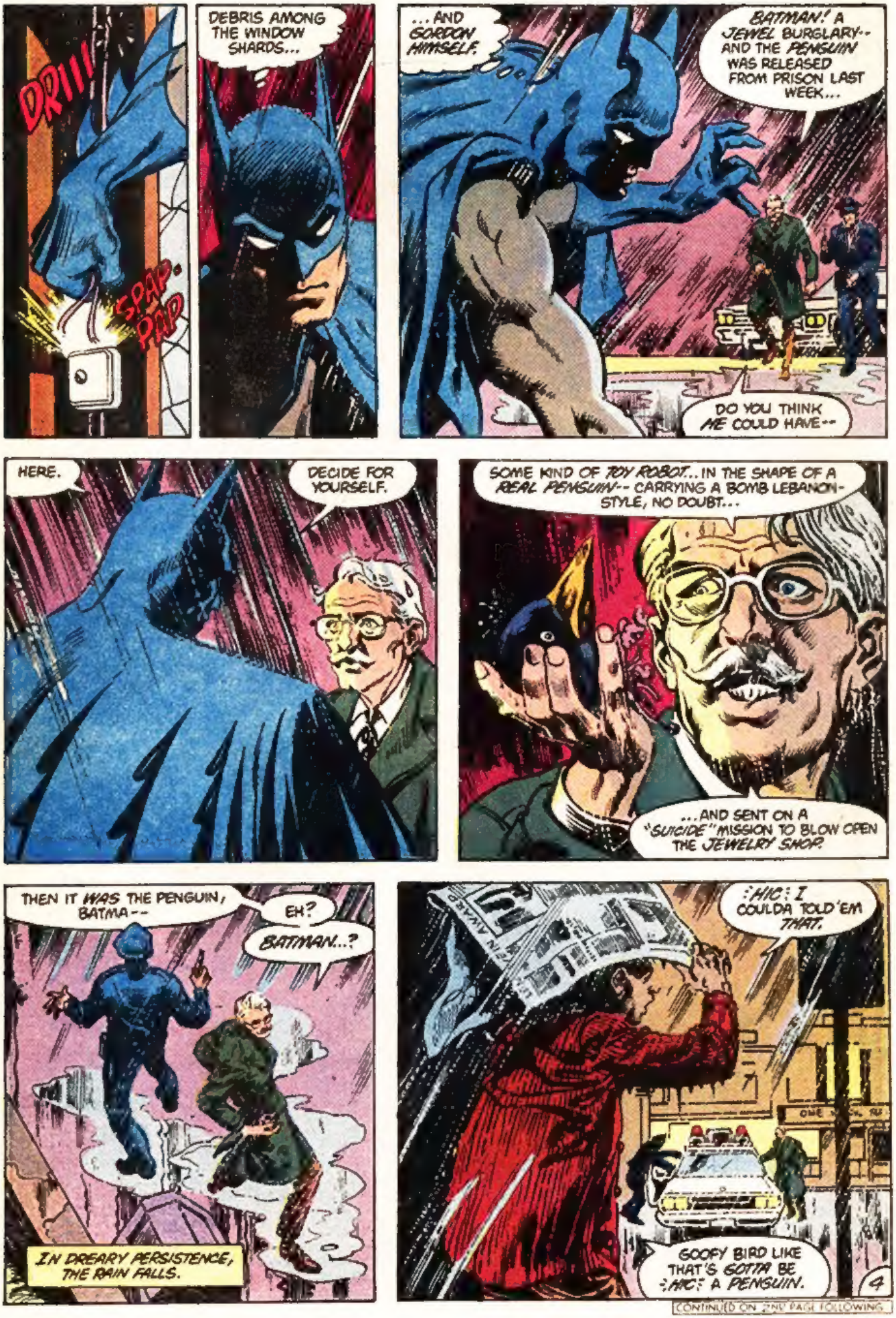

DRI!!!
SPAP-PAP
DEBRIS AMONG THE WINDOW SHARDS...
...AND GORDON HIMSELF.
BATMAN! A JEWEL BURGLARY-- AND THE PENGUIN WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON LAST WEEK...
DO YOU THINK ME COULD HAVE--
HERE.
DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.
SOME KIND OF TOY ROBOT... IN THE SHAPE OF A REAL PENGUIN-- CARRYING A BOMB LEBANON-STYLE, NO DOUBT...
...AND SENT ON A "SUICIDE" MISSION TO BLOW OPEN THE JEWELRY SHOP.
THEN IT WAS THE PENGUIN, BATMA--
EH?
BATMAN...?
IN DREARY PERSISTENCE, THE RAIN FALLS.
:HIC: I COULDA TOLD 'EM THAT.
GOOFY BIRD LIKE THAT'S GOTTA BE :HIC: A PENGUIN.
4
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

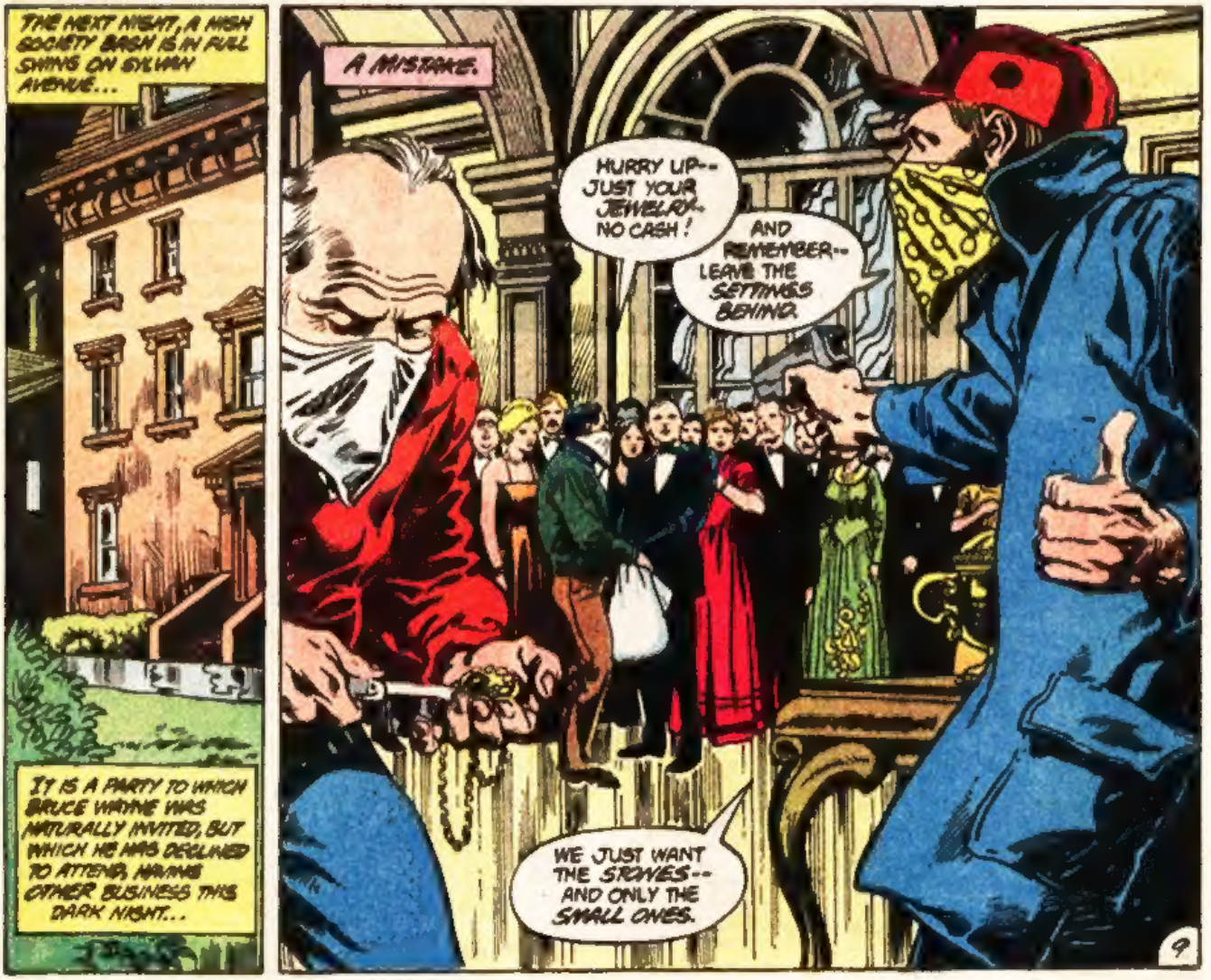
WAYNE MANOR:
JULIA! BUT WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN? I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK ABOUT--
NONSENSE, FATHER.
YOU'RE BECOMING TOO PATERNAL.
ARE JASON AND MR. WAYNE HOME?
AH... NO... THEY, AH, WENT TO THE CINEMA-- SOMETHING ABOUT COPS AND ROBBERS, I BELIEVE THEY SAID.
OH?
WHY?
I JUST THOUGHT I COULD TELL THE NEWS TO EVERYONE AT THE SAME TIME.
WHAT NEWS? HAVE YOU REALLY FOUND ANOTHER PLACE TO STAY?
NOT YET--BUT WHEN I DO, I'LL BE ABLE TO AFFORD THE RENT.
YOU MEAN TO SAY VICKI VALE ACTUALLY GAVE YOU EMPLOYMENT AT PICTURE NEWS?
OUI.
BUT ONLY AFTER I ASSURED HER I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO ROMANTIC DESIGNS ON MR. WAYNE.
OH?
I... SEE. BUT ARE YOU CERTAIN SUCH ASSURANCE WAS WISE? YOU WON'T COME TO REGRET IT?
CERTAINLY NOT-- MR. WAYNE'S WEALTH MAKES HIM FAR TOO ARROGANT FOR MY TASTES.
ARROGANT?
JULIA, I HAVE NEVER KNOWN A MAN WHO CARED LESS ABOUT MONEY AND MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM!
VERY WELL--HE CAN AFFORD NOT TO CARE ABOUT MONEY!
AND PERHAPS HE'S NOT ARROGANT-- BUT HE IS ALOOF!
5

IN THE WEEKS I'VE STAYED IN THIS MANOR, HE'S SEEN FIT TO PAY VIRTUALLY NO ATTENTION TO ME OR--
AHH...
NOW WE BEGIN TO SEE THE TRUTH OF--
WE SEE NOTHING, FATHER--
--EXCEPT THAT YOU ARE ILL-SUITED TO THE ROLE OF MATCH-MAKER!
BRIIIING BRIIIING
WAYNE RESIDENCE... OH, YES, MISS VALE...
NO, I'M AFRAID MR. WAYNE IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT.
MAY I TAKE A MESSAGE?
I'M WORKING LATE AT THE OFFICE, ALFRED-- IF BRUCE COMES IN SOON, HAVE HIM GIVE ME A RING.
IF NOT, PLEASE REMIND HIM ABOUT THE PICTURE NEWS STAFF PARTY NEXT WEEK.
AND BY THE WAY, HAS JULIA TOLD YOU ABOUT HER NEW JOB?
YES... MY PLEASURE... BYE.
THEN, EVEN AS VICKI VALE RACKS THE PHONE...
TEP TEP TEP
FOOTSTEPS... GETTING LOUDER... OUT IN THE HALL...
BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE STILL HERE... OR SO I THOUGHT...
KREEEEE

EEEEEEEE
PLIP PLIP PLOP
AH... GOOD EVENING, MISS VALE.
SO GLAD TO FIND YOU STILL IN.
YOU!
BUT IT'S AFTER HOURS!
HOW DID YOU GET IN?!
THE RAIN BLEW ME IN... WITH A PROPOSITION...
YOU SEE, I HAVE NEVER RECEIVED THE RECOGNITION MY CRIMINAL GENIUS DESERVES. THE JOKER AND THE OTHERS--THEY'RE ALL SECOND-RATE CHARLATANS COMPARED TO ME...
AND YET, BECAUSE MY APPEARANCE STRIKES SOME AS COMICAL--
--I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PORTRAYED IN THE MEDIA AS AN INSIGNIFICANT BUMBLER CONSTANTLY THWARTED BY THE BATMAN.
BUT I ASK YOU--HAVE ANY OF THE OTHERS EVER FARED ANY BETTER AGAINST THE BATMAN?
AND CONSIDER THIS--IN VIRTUALLY EVERY CONFRONTATION, I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT LEAST TWO OR THREE BRILLIANT CRIMES BEFORE THE BATMAN'S SINGLE VICTORY.
TRUE... BUT THE BATMAN'S VICTORY IS ALWAYS THE FINAL ONE.
SILENCE!!
WHAKK
I WON'T HEAR THAT!
I AM NOT COMICAL--AND I AM NOT A PERPETUAL LOSER!
7

I AM MORE THAN MY IMAGE, MISS VALE.
THE MAN WITHIN TRANSCENDS THE SHELL OF MY APPEARANCE.
I WANT YOU TO CAPTURE THAT ESSENCE IN PICTURES, AND DISPLAY IT FOR THE ENTIRE MOCKING WORLD TO SEE...
...PORTRAITS SUCH AS HAVE NEVER BEEN TAKEN BEFORE...
KLIK
minolta
...PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH PENETRATE THE MERE SURFACE TO EXPOSE THE INNER GENIUS OF THE PENGUIN.
I HAVE SELECTED YOU, MISS VALE, TO TAKE THESE PORTRAITS--
--HERE AND NOW-- TONIGHT--AS A PRELUDE OF PUBLICITY FOR THE PENGUIN'S GREATEST CRIME.
NO.
WHAT?! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT MANNER OF POWER IS CONTAINED IN THIS SEEMINGLY HARMLESS UMBRELLA?!
I KNOW YOU USE TRICK UMBRELLAS TO SHOOT GAS, SMOKE, ACID... EVEN BULLETS.
AND STILL YOU REFUSE?
I DO. WE RECORD THE NEWS HERE--WE DO NOT FABRICATE IT ON THE WHIMS OF A SMALL MAN'S VANITY.
FOR ONE BRIEF, SMOLDERING MOMENT IT SEEMS HE WILL EXPLODE... BUT THEN--
BAH! AFTER MY NEXT SPREE, YOU'LL BE BEGGING FOR A TRUE GLIMPSE INTO MY CHARACTER!
SLAM
THE WHOLE WORLD WILL!
FHOOOOOO
8

A SHAME THE ANGLE HAD TO BE SO LOW... YET IT ACTUALLY MAKES THE SHOT MORE DRAMATIC.
SAME WITH THE LOW LIGHTING -- THESE HEAVY SHADOWS MAKE HIM SEEM MORE MENACING AND LESS COMICAL THAN EVER BEFORE.
TERRIFIC PHOTOS FROM THE WORST CONDITIONS -- AND THE PENGUIN CERTAINLY GOT WHAT HE WANTED, WHETHER HE KNOWS IT OR NOT...
... TRUE GLIMPSES OF HIS INNER EVIL.
BUT NOW THE QUESTION IS... WAS MY INSTINCTIVE DEFIANCE CORRECT --
-- OR DO I CAPITULATE TO HIS DEMANDS AND PUBLISH PERHAPS THE BEST PHOTOS OF MY CAREER?


THE NEXT NIGHT, A HIGH SOCIETY BASH IS IN FULL SWING ON SYLVAN AVENUE...
IT IS A PARTY TO WHICH BRUCE WAYNE WAS NATURALLY INVITED, BUT WHICH HE HAS DECLINED TO ATTEND, HAVING OTHER BUSINESS THIS DARK NIGHT...
A MISTAKE.
HURRY UP -- JUST YOUR JEWELRY. NO CASH!
AND REMEMBER -- LEAVE THE SETTINGS BEHIND.
WE JUST WANT THE STONES -- AND ONLY THE SMALL ONES.
9

TOSS 'EM OUT THE WINDOW AND LET'S SPLIT!
HURRY!
IT IS OVER IN MINUTES.
...AND A HALF-HOUR LATER:
SO YOU DIDN'T SEE ANY OF THEIR FACES, MA'AM? HOW ABOUT SCARS--LIMPS--TATTOOS?
BATMAN--ROBIN--GLAD YOU COULD COME SO QUICKLY.
DETAILS, GORDON?
THREE THUGS IN COMMON CLOTHES--MASKED--WORKED FAST--TOOK JEWELRY ONLY
ANYTHING HIGHLY UNUSUAL?
YES--THEY PRIED THE STONES OUT OF THEIR SETTINGS...
BATMAN! LOOK--!
ON THAT BENCH OUTSIDE!
IT'S THE--
PENGUIN, YOUR AUDACITY JUST CROSSED THE LINE.
BUT I'M MERELY FEEDING THE BIRDS, BATMAN
EVEN IF IT WERE AUDACIOUS, CERTAINLY THERE'S NO CRIME IN IT?
PERHAPS NOT--BUT THERE IS CRIME IN A JEWEL ROBBERY!
JEWEL ROBBERY? WELL, WELL, WELL...
10
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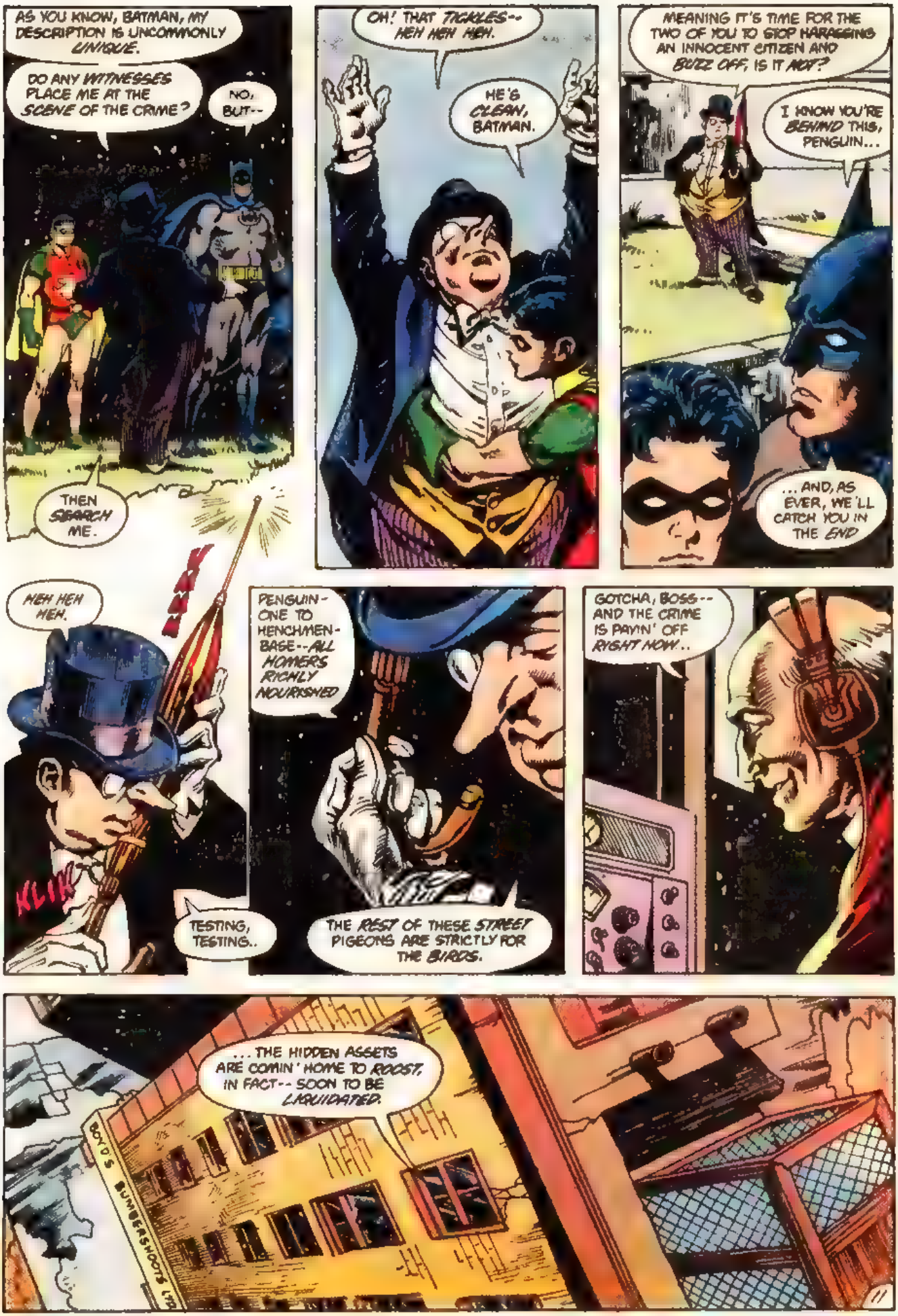
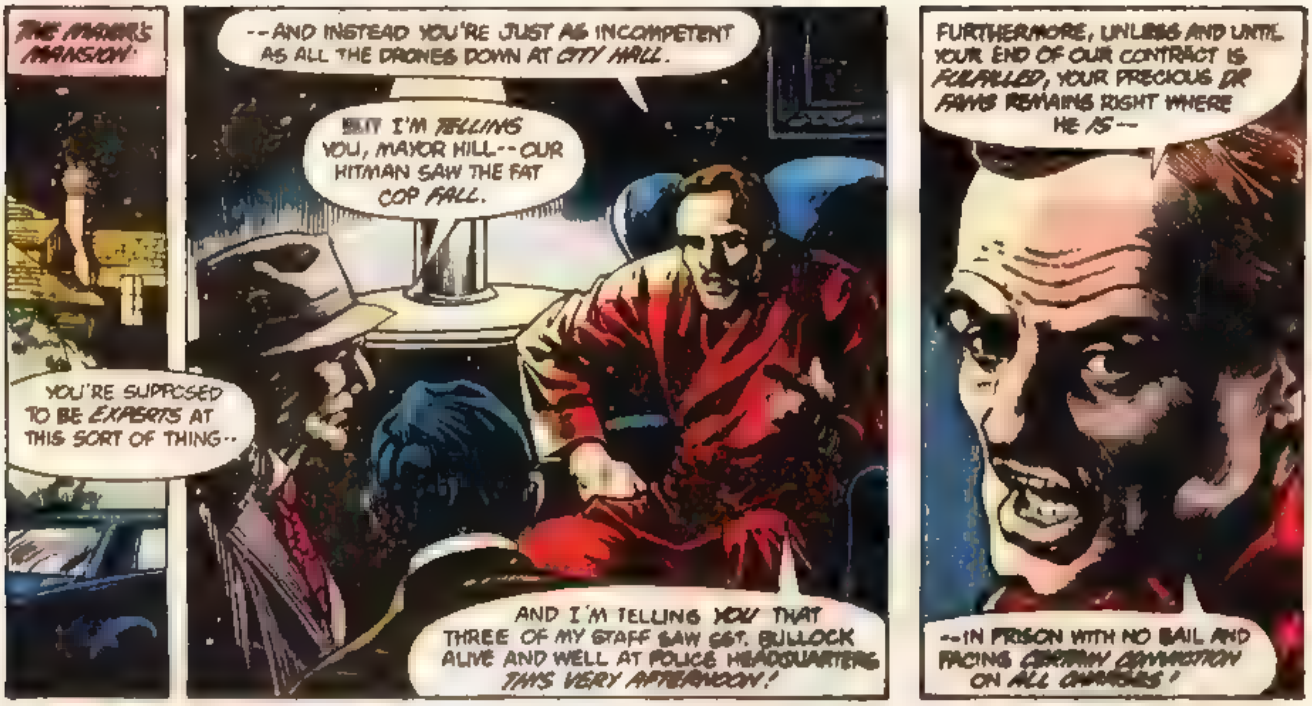
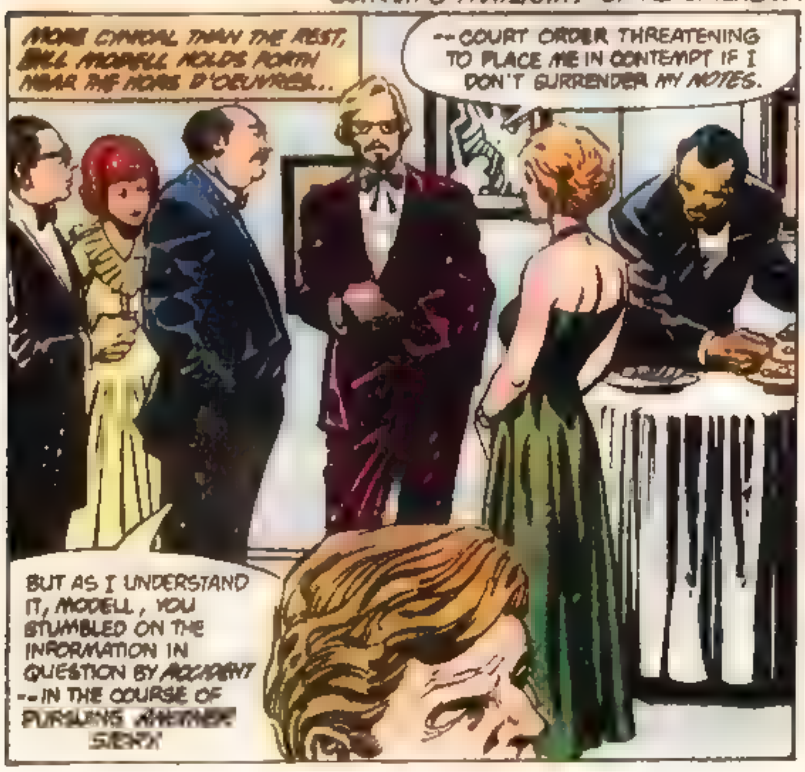

AS YOU KNOW, BATMAN, MY DESCRIPTION IS UNCOMMONLY UNIQUE.
DO ANY WITNESSES PLACE ME AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME?
NO, BUT--
THEN SEARCH ME.
OH! THAT TICKLES-- HEH HEH HEH.
HE'S CLEAN, BATMAN.
MEANING IT'S TIME FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO STOP HARASSING AN INNOCENT CITIZEN AND BUZZ OFF, IS IT NOT?
I KNOW YOU'RE BEHIND THIS, PENGUIN...
...AND, AS EVER, WE'LL CATCH YOU IN THE END
HEH HEH HEH.
KLIK
TESTING, TESTING..
PENGUIN-ONE TO HENCHMEN-BASE--ALL HOMERS RICHLY NOURISHED
THE REST OF THESE STREET PIGEONS ARE STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS.
GOTCHA, BOSS-- AND THE CRIME IS PAYIN' OFF RIGHT NOW..
...THE HIDDEN ASSETS ARE COMIN' HOME TO ROOST, IN FACT-- SOON TO BE LIQUIDATED.
BOYD'S BUMBERSHOOTS LTD.
11

POLICE HEADQUARTERS!
THAT SPOT'S RATHER LOW FOR HANGING A PICTURE, ISN'T IT, SGT. BULLOCK?
IT AIN'T A PITCHER, COMMISH.
IT'S JUST A FRAME--AROUND THIS LOUSY STINKIN' BULLET HOLE IN THE WALL-- THE ONE THAT WAS ALMOST A HOLE IN MY GUT.
I CONSIDER IT A BADGE OF HONOR AS WELL AS A REMINDER THAT SOME COCKAMAMIE LUNATIC IS TRYIN' TO--
OWTCH!
--HURT ME!
I SEE. BY THE WAY, BULLOCK, IT SEEMS THE PENGUIN IS BACK IN ACTION...
THE PENGUIN!
MAYBE ME WAS MY WOULD-BE ASSASSIN--
--USIN' ONE OF HIS TRICK UMBRELLAS FROM THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET TO--
WHY WOULD THE PENGUIN WANT TO KILL YOU?
REVENGE AGAINST THE LAW, COMMISH! WHAT ELSE?
EXCEPT FOR ONE THING--OF ALL THE COPS ON THIS FORCE, YOU'RE ONE OF THE VERY FEW WHO'S NEVER SO MUCH AS CROSSED THE PENGUIN'S WADDLING PATH!
YEAH, BUT--
SORRY, BULLOCK-- BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'VE FRAMED THE WRONG ASSASSIN.
AW, HELL.
12


THE MAYOR'S MANSION
--AND INSTEAD YOU'RE JUST AS INCOMPETENT AS ALL THE DRONES DOWN AT CITY HALL.
BUT I'M TELLING YOU, MAYOR HILL--OUR HITMAN SAW THE FAT COP FALL.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE EXPERTS AT THIS SORT OF THING--
AND I'M TELLING YOU THAT THREE OF MY STAFF SAW SGT. BULLOCK ALIVE AND WELL AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS THIS VERY AFTERNOON!
FURTHERMORE, UNLESS AND UNTIL YOUR END OF OUR CONTRACT IS FULFILLED, YOUR PRECIOUS DR FAWS REMAINS RIGHT WHERE HE IS--
--IN PRISON WITH NO BAIL AND FACING CERTAIN CONVICTION ON ALL CHARGES!

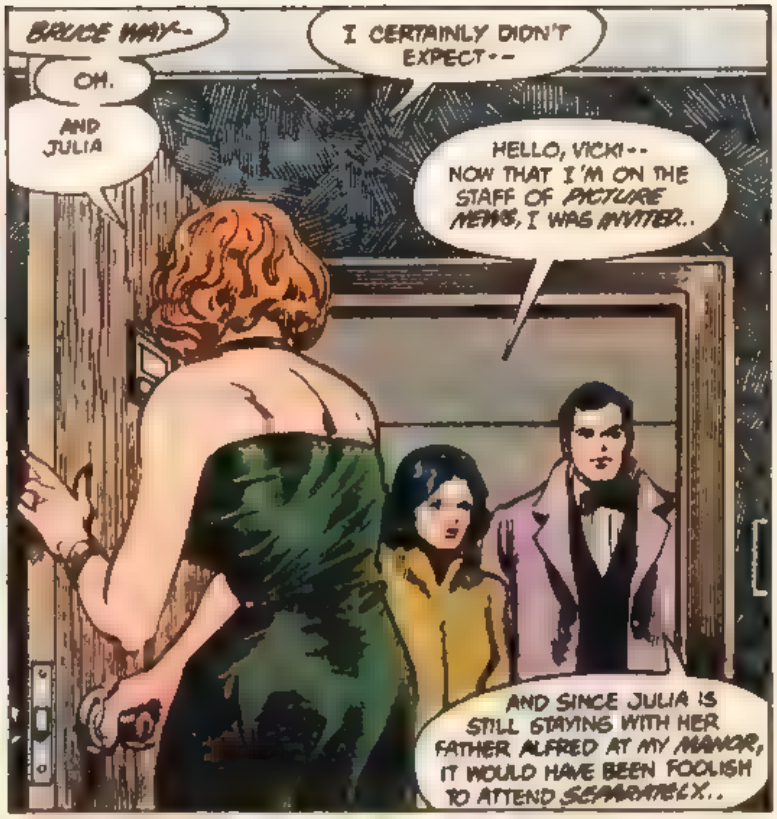
ONE WEEK LATER, VICKI VALE'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT FILLS WITH THE SAD, WEARY, CRAVING CYNICS WHO MAKE UP GOTHAM'S FRATERNITY OF REPORTERS...


MORE CYNICAL THAN THE REST, BILL MODELL HOLDS FORTH NEAR THE HORS D'OEUVRES...
--COURT ORDER THREATENING TO PLACE ME IN CONTEMPT IF I DON'T SURRENDER MY NOTES.
BUT AS I UNDERSTAND IT, MODELL, YOU STUMBLED ON THE INFORMATION IN QUESTION BY ACCIDENT --IN THE COURSE OF PURSUING ANOTHER STORY.

EXACTLY--A PIECE ON PENTAGON BUDGET OVERRUNS, AND THAT'S THE ONLY PIECE I'VE WRITTEN.
SO IF YOU HAVEN'T PUBLISHED THE OTHER INFORMATION, WHAT ARE THEY WORRIED ABOUT?
THAT I MIGHT PUBLISH IT...
13

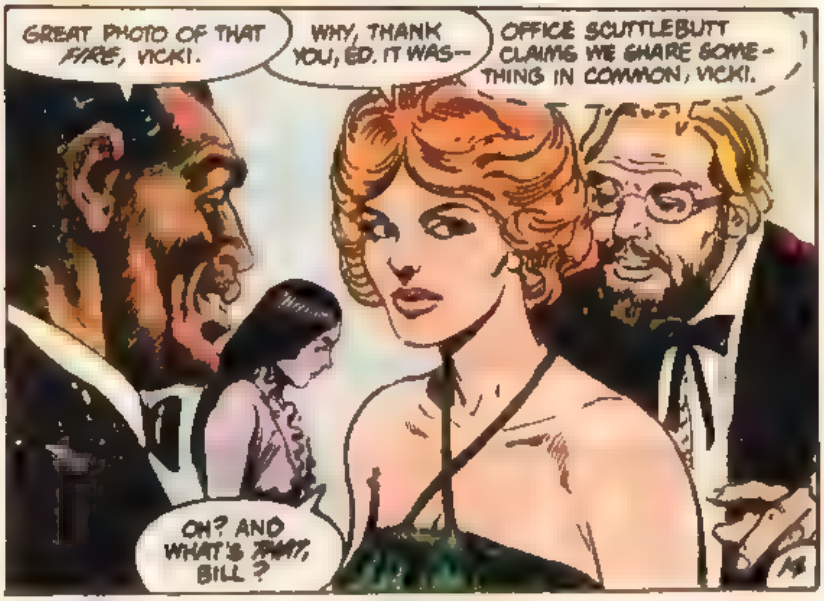
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

AND IT IS SO BIG... SO BIG THAT I CONFESS I'M TEMPTED--
BING BONG
EXCUSE ME -- MORE GUESTS TO GREET.
AND I HOPE IT'S FINALLY--


BRUCE WAYNE--
OH.
AND JULIA
I CERTAINLY DIDN'T EXPECT--
HELLO, VICKI-- NOW THAT I'M ON THE STAFF OF PICTURE NEWS, I WAS INVITED..
AND SINCE JULIA IS STILL STAYING WITH HER FATHER ALFRED AT MY MANOR, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FOOLISH TO ATTEND SEABOARD EX..

IT ONLY MADE SENSE TO COME IN THE SAME CAR.
INDEED-- JUST AS IT ONLY MAKES SENSE FOR THE HOSTESS TO ATTEND HER UNMATCHED GUESTS
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.

I...I HAVEN'T REALLY STARTED MY NEW JOB YET, MR. WAYNE, SO I BARELY KNOW ANYONE HERE.
THEN IT SEEMS WE'RE FATED TO BE COMPANIONS FOR THE NIGHT, JULIA


GREAT PHOTO OF THAT FIRE, VICKI.
WHY, THANK YOU, ED. IT WAS--
OFFICE SCUTTLEBUTT CLAIMS WE SHARE SOMETHING IN COMMON, VICKI.
OH? AND WHAT'S THAT, BILL?

THE REPORTER'S CONFLICT BETWEEN CONSCIENCE AND SENSE OF DUTY.
THEY SAY YOU'RE SITTING ON THE MOST DRAMATIC PHOTO OF THE YEAR, BUT YOU CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER TO RUN THEM...
YOU TELL ME, BILL. IS DRAMA SYNONYMOUS WITH NEWS?
--BUT LIFE IN FRANCE DOES HAVE ITS COMPENSATIONS, MR. WAYNE...
...ESPECIALLY IN THE SPRING...
WHY IS VICKI TRYING SO HARD TO MAKE ME JEALOUS? HAVE I REALLY BEEN IGNORING HER THAT MUCH LATELY? OR IS IT JUST--
...WHEN A WOMAN'S BLOOD WARMS, AND HER SKIN TINGLES, AT THE MERE SIGHT OF A MAN.
IT'S A FEELING I HAVEN'T FELT IN GOTHAM... UNTIL TONIGHT.
OH?
YOU DON'T SAY
BUT I DO SAY BRUCE
THEN SAY SOME MORE... JULIA
THE PENGUIN HIMSELF... IN YOUR OFFICE?!
IN THE ROTUND FLESH, BILL, BUT IF I RUN THE PIX, I'LL ONLY BE BENDING TO HIS WISHES--
--GIVING A VAIN CRIMINAL THE VERY PUBLICITY HE CRAVES, AND AS IT REALLY SEEMS THAT SUCH A MAN WANTS ATTENTION?
HMM. MY SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT.
THE PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF MY STORY COULD CONCEIVABLY COMPROMISE THE NATION'S DEFENSE--YET MANY WOULD ARGUE THAT THE WELFARE OF THE DEFENSE SYSTEM IS INDISPENSABLE...
...AND DOESN'T THE PUBLIC HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW HOW IT'S BEING DEFENDED--WHAT ITS TAX DOLLARS ARE PAYING FOR?
YES, YOUR DILEMMA IS THORNIER.
BUT PERHAPS WE SHARE SOMETHING ELSE, VICKI... MONEY IN COMMON...
15

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

THE BEGINNING OF CRIME'S GREATEST HOUR
...THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON!
AND DO FORGIVE ME FOR CRASHING YOUR ELEGANT SOIREE-- BUT IT SEEMS I WASN'T INVITED-- ME, WHO IS EVER ATTIRED FOR SUCH OCCASIONS.
I WAS RIGHT-- IT WAS THE PENGUIN AT THAT OTHER PARTY!
YOU MAY REMEMBER MY OTHER ROBBERY LAST WEEK-- BUT I'M NOT AFTER GEMS THIS TIME. .
INDEED, MY LAST PARTY-CRASH WAS A MERE WARM-UP FOR THE BIGGEST PRIZE OF ALL..
FSHSHSHSH
AGH-H!
MAN HIMSELF!
LEAVING PARTY EARLY. BUT NOT QUITE... IN COMPANY... I HAD IN MIND..
TAKE HIM OUT, BOYS
AND I TOLD YOU YOU'D REGRET YOUR DECISION, MISS VALE... HEH HEH HEH.
17

THE PENGUIN'S LEAVING... AND THE GUNTS WILL BE CONFUSED FOR A WHILE...
... TOO CONFUSED TO NOTICE THAT BRUCE WAYNE HAS SLIPPED AWAY.
"... AND THEY'LL NEVER EVEN SEE THE BATMAN."
BUT THEY'VE ALREADY GOTTEN MODELL INTO THAT CAR--MEANING THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CATCH THEM!
THEN, A SUSURRUS OF HIGH WINGS.
PIGEONS!
HOMING PIGEONS!
OF COURSE--HE WAS FEEDING THEM OUTSIDE THE LAST PARTY--AND IT FITS IN WITH HIS MANIA FOR BIRDS.
THEY MAY BE SLOWER THAN A SPEEDING CAR, BUT THEY'RE STILL FAST...
YET THEIR HEIGHT WILL KEEP THEM VISIBLE FOR A LONGER TIME--AND IF THE DESTINATION ISN'T TOO FAR...
IT ISN'T
"BOYD'S BUMBERSHOOTS, LIMITED"--IT SEEMS THE PENGUIN HAS PICKED UP A BROOKLYN ACCENT IN LONDON...
UMBERSHOOTS
...BECAUSE BIRDS ON THE TOP AND BOYD'S ON THE BOTTOM SUMS UP THE PENGUIN QUITE NEATLY--NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT "BUMBERSHOOT" IS THE BRITISH TERM FOR UMBRELLA.
18

...TOLD YOU ALL I KNOW-- I...I SWEAR IT!
YOU'RE LYING, MODELL!
YOU FORGET, BOYS--IN HIS PRESENT CONDITION, HE IS INCAPABLE OF LYING.
BESIDES, WHAT HE HAS ALREADY REVEALED IS QUITE SUFFICIENT FOR--
KEEESH
ONE CRASHED PARTY DESERVES ANOTHER, PUNKS!
THE BATMAN!!
HE'S HERE SOONER THAN I ANTICIPATED, BOYS!
FOOOSH
BUT NEVER FEAR-- THIS CLOUD OF SMOKE SHOULD SLOW HIM DOWN...

HE CAN *HAVE* MODELL-- SINCE THIS UMBRELLA CONTAINS A MINIATURE *TAPE RECORDER*, I'VE ALREADY GOT MY "LOOT."
AND EVEN IF THE SMOKE *DOESN'T* SLOW HIM DOWN, IT'LL TAKE AT LEAST *FIFTEEN SECONDS* TO KNOCK THE THREE OF YOU OUT!
FIFTEEN...
FRAK
...FOURTEEN...
...THIRTEEN...
WUMP
...TWELVE...
CHUD
...ELEVEN...
...TEN...
ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT*, MODELL?
DRUGGED ME WITH *DEMEROL*... TRUTH SERUM ...FORCED ME TO TELL EVERYTHING... ABOUT *"EARLY BIRD" DEFENSE SYSTEM*... CLASSIFIED...
...PLANS TO SELL INFO... TO... HOSTILE POWER...
...THREE, TWO, ONE...
20

...ZERO!
TOO LATE, BATMAN!
IT'S TIME TO FLY THE COOP--AND GO SOUTH FOR THE SUMMER!
FWHUMP
HEH HEH HEH.
BLAST YOU, PENGUIN!
21

REPT
A HARD LANDING, EH?
BUT LUCKILY THE CONVERTIBLE'S SEAT IS CUSHIONED.
FAREWELL, BATMAN-- THE BIRD YOU ALMOST HAD IN HAND IS OFF TO HATCH THE GREATEST CRIME OF THE CENTURY!
BLAST YOU.
COO ALL YOU WANT, PIGEONS-- I KNOW YOU'VE GOT BELLYACHES...
...BUT EVEN ON A RICH DIET LIKE YOURS, YOU MAKE VERY POOR CONSOLATION PRIZES.
POLICE HEADQUARTERS:
THEY SAY MODELL IS RECOVERING NICELY IN THE HOSPITAL, BATMAN...
...AND YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THOSE HOMING PIGEONS-- SOME OF THEM STILL HAVE DIAMONDS IN THEIR GULLETS.
A NEAT WAY TO AIRMAIL HIS LOOT-- BUT WHAT'S HE UP TO NOW?
SOMETHING FAR WORSE THAN GEM THEFT, GORDON.
THE PENGUIN'S JUST GONE INTERNATIONAL...
...WITH THE BLUEPRINT FOR GLOBAL CONFLICT.

CONTINUED ON 23RD PAGE FOLLOWING

EPILOGUE: THE GOTHAM CHILD WELFARE BUREAU...
ANY PROGRESS ON THE JASON TODD CASE, AMANDA?
YES-- I CHECKED OUT THE BOY'S PARENTS.
AND?
THEY NO LONGER EXIST-- THEY DIED LATE LAST YEAR.
WHAT?! ARE YOU CERTAIN?
QUITE--THEY WERE CALLED THE FLYING TOORS, A CIRCUS HIGH-WIRE ACT, BUT THEIR DEATHS WERE NOT THE RESULT OF OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD...
THEY WERE MURDERED BY A GANGSTER KNOWN AS KILLER CROC.
GOOD LORD!
IT GETS WORSE.
SINCE THEN, THE CHILD HAS APPARENTLY SPENT PART OF THE TIME UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF ONE BRUCE WAYNE...
OF THE WAYNE FOUNDATION?
IT IS ONE OF THIS BUREAU'S MOST GENEROUS BENEFACTORS...
I TRUST WE'VE NOT REACHED THE POINT WHERE CASH DONATIONS CAN INFLUENCE THE DIRECTION OF OUR WORK?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, AMANDA?
I MEAN THAT NOWHERE IN THE FILES MARKED "WAYNE, BRUCE" IS THERE ANY RECORD OF FORMAL ADOPTION OR GUARDIANSHIP PAPERS FOR ANYONE OTHER THAN A CERTAIN RICHARD GRAYSON, NOW OF AGE.
"AS YOU WELL KNOW, THIS MEANS THAT JASON TODD IS ILLEGALLY RESIDING UNDER BRUCE WAYNE'S ROOF-- AND MAY BE PRESUMED TO BE RECEIVING LESS THAN THE PROPER PARENTAL CARE."
YOU DIDN'T MISS MUCH OF A PARTY, JASON... BUT EVEN IF I FAILED THERE, LAD, I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE...
...TO KEEP YOU SAFE... WELL BEYOND THE REACH OF NIGHTMARES.
IN THE NEXT DETECTIVE: THE PENGUIN IN ANTARCTICA!
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